

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 01752 110654Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6537

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1752

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ID

SUBJECT: GENERAL YOGA ON DETENTION OF MOCHTAR LUBIS

REF: JAKARTA 1519

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GOI INTELLIGENCE CHIEF LTGEN YOGA SOEGOMO TOLD REPORTERS FEB 10 AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO THAT THE ARREST OF PROMINENT JOURNALIST MOCHTAR LUBIS FEB 4 (REFTEL) WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE JAN 15, 1974 JAKARTA RIOTS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT LUBIS HAD NOT BEEN CHARGED, AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS DETENTION WAS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A MORE INTENSIVE EXAMINATION. IN REFERRING TO LUBIS, YOGA USED THE HONORIFIC INDONESIAN PRONOUN "BELIAU".

2. ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER IT WAS CLEAR THAT LUBIS WAS INVOLVED IN THE JANUARY AFFAIR, YOGA SAID LUBIS HAD "ONLY BEEN DETAINED, NOT IMPRISONED." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE OTHER JAN 15 DETAINEES? YOGA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME HAD BEEN RELEASED AND THAT OTHER DETAINEES "WHO ARE APPARENTLY NOT GUILTY" WILL ALSO BE RELEASED.

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3. COMMENT: YOGA'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN "DETAINED" AND "IMPRISONED" COULD IMPLY THAT LUBIS' DETENTION MIGHT BE BRIEF; BUT WITHOUT FURTHER EXPLANATION, WE DO NOT PLACE MUCH WEIGHT ON THIS INTERPRETATION. IT IS POSSIBLE, AS SOME HAVE SPECULATED, THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY TAG LUBIS AS THE "BIG FISH" BEHIND THE JANUARY AFFAIR WHICH IT HAS BEEN SEEKING; ALTHOUGH IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE HOW IT COULD PRESENT A CASE IN SUPPORT OF THIS THEORY THAT WOULD BE REMOTELY CREDIBLE. ONE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTY WITH THIS THEORY IS THAT LUBIS WAS ABROAD AT THE TIME THE RIOTS OCCURRED.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, ELEVEN OF THE APROXIMATELY 45 ORIGINAL JAN 15 DETAINEES HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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